IN THE SPECIFICATION

PLEASE DELETE PAGE 23, LINES 2-12 AND REPLACE WITH:

A method and apparatus determines an identity of at least each card in a card hand at a casino table card game. The method is performed automatically by a computer-based system that reads the rank and suit of each card that leaves a dealing shoe and then uses a smart discard tray that reads the discards as they are taken from the table. It is optional and preferred to provide a signal to the computer of the presence of at least one card in the dealer's hand. Additional cards are dealt to hands. Exhausted hands are removed from the table and placed into a discard rack. Each card in each exhausted hand is read when placed in the discard rack to determine rank and suit of each placed card, and the computer reconciles cards placed in the discard rack with cards that left the dealing shoe.

PLEASE AMEND PAGE 10, LINES 5-24 AS FOLLOWS, WHICH AMENDMENT ADDS ONLY THE REQUESTED APPLICATION SERIAL NUMBER:

A first step in the operation is to provide a set of cards to the smart delivery shoe, the cards being those cards that are going to be used in the play of a casino table card game. The set of cards (usually one or more decks) is provided in an already randomized set, being taken out of a shuffler or having been shuffled by hand. A preferred smart delivery shoe is described in copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/622,321, filed the same date as this application, titled SMART DELIVERY SHOE, which application is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference for its entire disclosure of the card reading a delivery capability and structure of that device and all enabling disclosure therein. Alternative, but less preferred card delivery systems or shoes with reading capability include, but are not limited to those disclosed in U.S. Patents Nos. 4,750,743; 5,779,546; 5,605,334; 6,361,044; 6,217,447; 5,941,769; 6,229,536; 6,460,848; 5,722,893; 6,039,650; and 6,126,166. Some of these system require specially coded cards, which is particularly undesirable, but may be used as an alternative. The cards are read in the smart card delivery shoe, preferably one card at a time in sequence. Reading cards by edge markings and special codes (as in U.S. 6,460,848) requires special encoding and marking of the cards. The entire sequence of cards in the set of cards is thus determined and stored in memory. Memory may be at least in part in the smart delivery shoe, but communication with a central

processor is highly desirable and preferred. The sequence would then also or solely be stored in the central computer.

PLEASE AMEND PAGE 12, LINE 10 THROUGH PAGE 13, LINE 17 AS FOLLOWS, WHICH AMENDMENT ADDS ONLY THE REQUESTED APPLICATION SERIAL NUMBER:

After dealing the initial set of two cards per hand, the system cannot immediately know where each remaining card will be dealt. The system does know what cards are dealt, however. It is with this knowledge and a subsequent identification of discarded hands that the hands and cards from the smart delivery shoe can be reconciled or verified. Each hand is already identified by the presence of two specifically known cards. Hands are then played according to the rules of the game, and hands are discarded when play of a hand is exhausted. A hand is exhausted when 1) there is a blackjack, the hand is paid, and the cards are cleared; 2) a hand breaks with a count over twenty-one and the cards are cleared; and/or a round the game is played to a conclusion, the dealer's hand completed, all wagers are settled, and the cards are cleared. As is typically done in a casino to enable reconciling of hands manually, cards are picked up in a precise order from the table. The cards are usually cleared from the dealer's right to the dealer's left, and the cards at each position comprise the cards in the order that they were delivered, first card on the bottom, second card over the first card, third card over the second card, etc. maintaining the order or a close approximation of the order (e.g., the first two cards may be reversed) is important as the first two cards form an anchor, focus, basis, fence, end point or set edge for each hand. For example, if the third player position was known to have received the 10 of hearts (10H) and the 9 of spades (9S) for the first two card, and the fourth player was known to receive the 8 of diamonds (8D) and the 3 of clubs (3C) for the first two cards, the edges or anchors of the two hands are 9S/10H and 8D/3C. When the hands are swept at the conclusion of the game, the cards are sent to a smart discard rack (e.g., see U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/622,388, filed the same date as this application, and titled Smart Discard Rack, which application is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety for its disclosure and enablement) and the hand with the 9S/10H was not already exhausted (e.g., broken or busted) and the swept cards consist of 9S, 10H, 8S, 8D and 3C (as read by the smart discard rack), the software of the processor will automatically know that the final hands in the third and fourth positions were a count of 19 (9S and 10H) for the third hand and 19 (8D and 3C originally plus the 8S hit) for the fourth hand. The analysis by the software specifically identifies the fourth hand as a count of 19 with the

specific cards read by the smart discard shoe. The information from reading that now exhausted hand is compared with the original information collected from the smart delivery shoe. The smart delivery shoe information when combined with the smart discard rack information shall confirm the hands in each position, even though cards were not uniformly distributed (e.g., player one takes two hits for a total of four cards, player two takes three hits for a total of five cards, player three takes no hit for a total of two cards, player four takes one hit for a total of three cards, and the dealer takes two hits for a total of four cards).

PLEASE INSERT THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH AT PAGE 15, LINE 20:

Figure 1 shows a block diagram of the minimum components for the hand-reading system on a table **4** of the invention, a smart card-reading delivery shoe **8** with output **14** and a smart card-reading discard rack **12** with output **18**. Player positions **6** are shown, as is a dealer's hand position sensor **10** without output port **16**.